Companies in the public sector, field trials using bio-diesel and diesel blend in buses are in progress in collaboration with Haryana Roadways and the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST), Mumbai. Field trails and engine tests on locomotives are also in progress. However, there is no ready domestic market for bio-diesel in India since bio-diesel based on readily available feed-stocks cost much more than diesel. Tackling the cost angle is an essential on-going component of promoting the bio-diesel programme. It is being addressed in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

(c) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is implementing an ethanol blended petrol programme in notified sugar producing States/ adjoining States and Union Territories, which envisages supply of 5% ethanol blended petrol if ethanol is available on a sustained basis at reasonable prices for such blending.

A Coal Bed Methane (CBM) policy has been framed to harness the methane hidden in coal beds. So far, 16 CBM blocks have been awarded to different companies. For exploration of gas hydrates, a Steering Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas which has prepared a roadmap for such exploration. Five sub-groups on Geo-Science, drilling, production, trasnportation/pipeline and environment have also been formed to carry out simultaneous activities related to gas hydrates.

Extension of Raipur airport

†*13. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently made any announcement regarding extension of some airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether the extension of Raipur airport in Chhattisgarh has been included in this announcement;

(c) the land required for extension of Raipur airport and the amount required for acquiring the said land;

(d) whether Airports Authority of India has paid the required amount for acquiring the land to the State Government;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, what was this amount and when it was paid; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and by when this payment will be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans for modernization of tentatively selected 25 non-metro airports.

(b) No, Sir. However, in line with the policy for upgrading airport infrastructure on regular basis at various airports, AAI has plans to extend runway to 7500 ft at Raipur to make it suitable for operation of A-320 type of aircraft and to increase the parking capacity of existing apron.

(c) to (f) In a meeting held on 17th June, 2002 between AAI and the State Government officials, the Government of Chhattisgarh had agreed to provide the required land to AAI free of cost and free from all encumberances. Accordingly, the District Collector, Raipur was requested on 5th January, 2004 to acquire and hand over 50.17 acres of land including 22.22 acres of private land to AAI. The required 50.17 acres of land acquired by the Government of Chhattisgarh under emergency clause of Land Acquisition Act, has already been handed over to AAI free of cost on 12th July, 2004.

Allocation of gas from Tapti Gas Field

*14. DR. A.K. PATEL:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the additional development plan for allocation of gas from Tapti Gas Field has been finalized;

(b) if so, by when it would be implemented; and

(c) the details of Government stand on the State Government of Gujarat's request for allcoation of 3.65 MMSCMD gas for the Pipavav Power project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Operating Committee of the Tapti Gas field has submitted a development plan for the production of additional gas